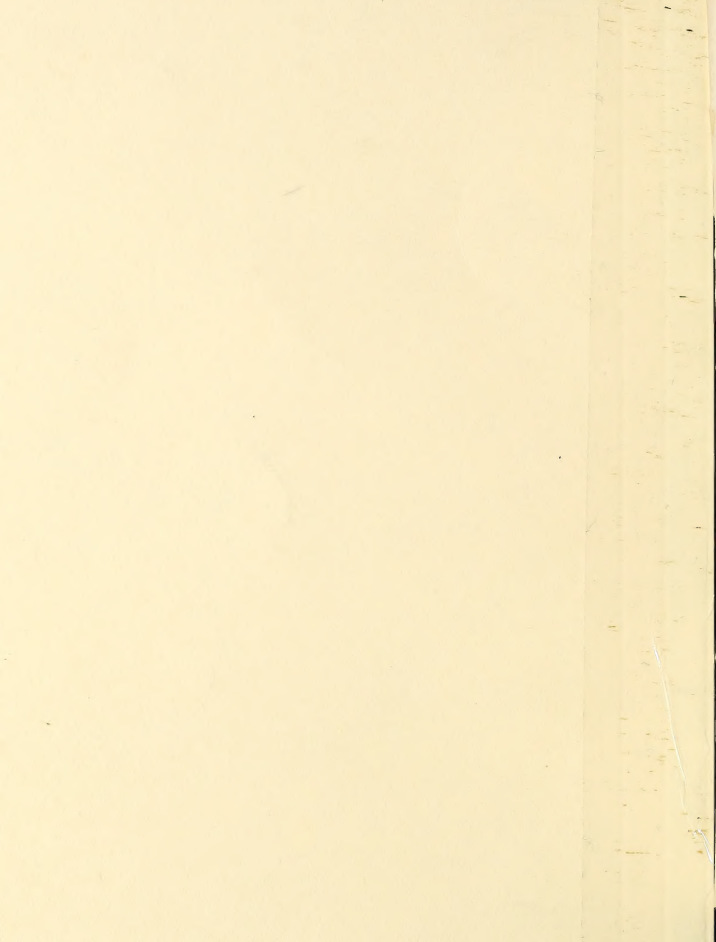


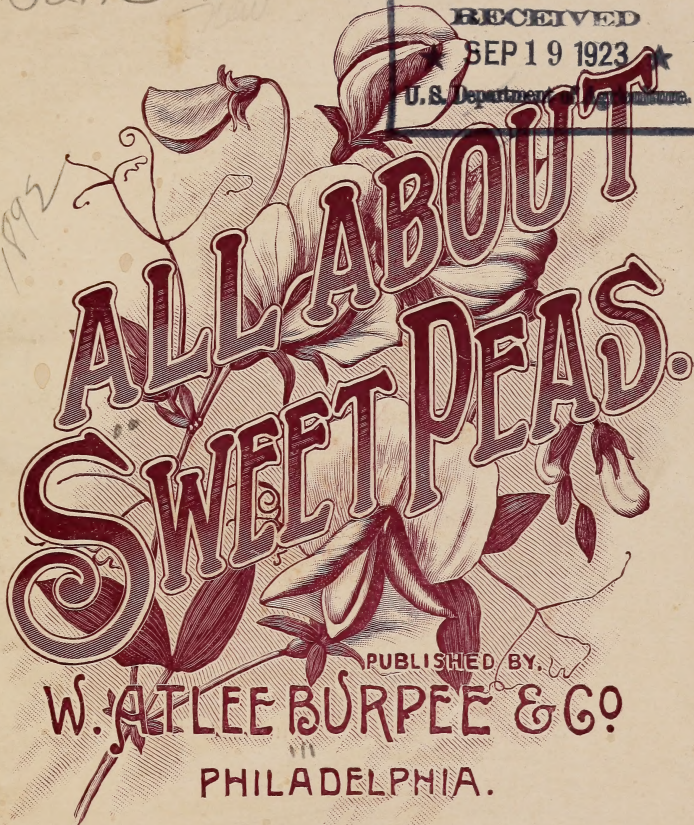
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ALL ABOUT SWEET PEAS.

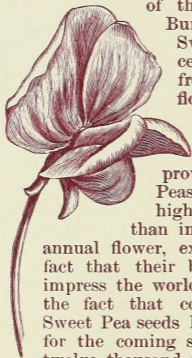
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PHILADELPHIA.

The Coming Flower.

Not far away are the plots of Sweet Peas, which call for special mention, not only on account of the magnificence to which these lovely flowers have here been brought, but also because of the importance which these flowers promise to assume in the ornamental gardening of the near future. Mr.



Burpee thinks that the Sweet Pea has never received the consideration from horticulturists and flower lovers to which it is entitled, and he considers it the flower of the future. The im-

provements made in Sweet Peas by hybridization and high cultivation are greater than in the case of any other annual flower, excepting Pansies. The fact that their beauty is beginning to impress the world at large is shown by the fact that contracts for furnishing Sweet Pea seeds have already been made for the coming season aggregating over twelve thousand pounds. By his efforts to improve and make more popular this lovely flower Mr Burpee has undoubtedly made his house the headquarters for them. The trial beds show many beautiful varieties of every imaginable hue.—*From THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Oct. 8, 1892.*

ALL ABOUT
SWEET PEAS

AN ART MONOGRAPH

BY

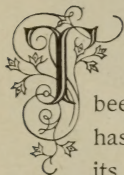
REV. W. T. HUTCHINS

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ALL ABOUT SWEET PEAS.



THE SWEET PEA is the coming flower. As a favorite garden annual it has long been familiar to us, although its cultivation has really but just begun. Since coming from its original Sicily home, where nature gave it the pink and white beauty of what is now called the Painted Lady, it has by the florist's art been developed into other colors, such as scarlet, purple, blue, brown, etc. But now, in the hands of a specialist like Mr. Eckford, of Shropshire, England, who for seventeen years has devoted himself to its improvement, it is like a new discovery, and is already in the front rank as a fashionable flower, with unlimited promise as to color, form, and size.

Paxton's English Botanical Dictionary gives a list of fifty-four species of the genus *Lathyrus*, of which the *Lathyrus odoratus*, our beautiful Sweet Pea,

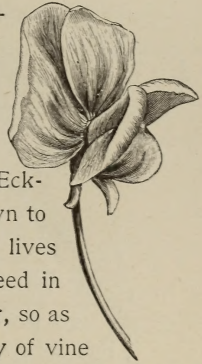


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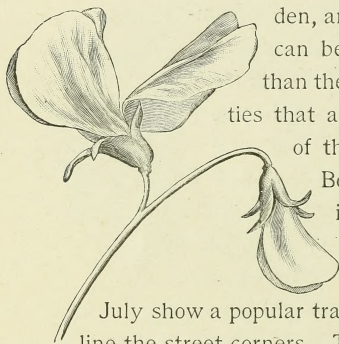
THE SENATOR.

is one. Some of the other species are coming into favor, like the *Lathyrus latifolius* (Perennial Pea), which can now be had in several varieties, and others which are better known in England than here; but the queen of them all is doubtless the Sweet Pea.

In this country the Sweet Pea wave now indicates that its day is come. That the commoner varieties are now known and grown everywhere is seen in the fact that the largest seedhouses handle tons of the seed. But still few comparatively have seen either the finest Eckford's or, indeed, any Sweet Peas grown to perfection. It marks an epoch in the lives of flower-lovers when they first succeed in growing a hedge of this new-old flower, so as to bring out its true thrift and luxury of vine and lavish wealth of blossom. The writer will always remember the day when he saw them thus grown for the first time by a gentleman who for several years carried off the first prize from the Boston Annual Exhibit, and that was before the finest Eckford's had appeared.



Even seedsmen have been slow to acknowledge the new merit of this flower, for the true Eckford's have been very scarce and high priced. All skepticism will vanish wherever reliable seed is obtained and the few rules of culture mastered. The cheaper mixture fur-



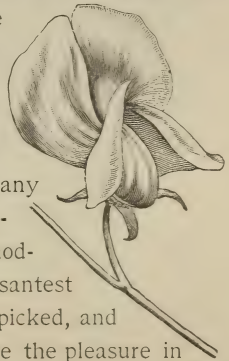
den, and no fair lady of fortune can be kissed by sweeter lips than these royal and titled beauties that are now taking the place of the old plebeian varieties.

Boston has led the way in its competitive exhibits of this flower, and the streets of that city in

July show a popular trade in the basketfuls that line the street corners. To enter an exhibit there on Sweet Pea day fifty stems each of thirty varieties are required, which is now a very ordinary test of this flower. A silver vase, worth twenty-five dollars, has been offered in addition to the regular prizes.

It may not be generous to compare the Sweet Pea

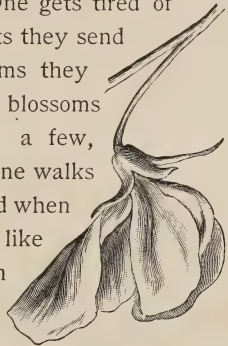
with other flowers. All have their good points. But the praises of this flower, when justly sung, will appeal to those who distinguish between the loud and flashy gaudiness of nature's coarser flowers, and those whose sweetness and adorning are in their delicate grace and simplicity. The Sweet Pea was introduced like a blushing virgin in chaste pink and white, and all the new shades are either of this soft, pure coloring, or else of the richest dark shades that have nothing loud in them. It commands its way among the rich, and yet seems on a mission sent to convey the most spiritual suggestions of nature to the lowliest child. What can better adorn a pulpit or cheer a sick-room? As a corsage bouquet, or held in a dainty hand, it outshines any cosmetic and excels any bottled perfume. To the successful grower of a hedge of even moderate length it will be the pleasantest daily tax to keep the blossoms picked, and the whole neighborhood will share the pleasure in





INDIGO KING.

the distribution of bouquets. One gets tired of counting the number of bouquets they send out in the season. What stems they have! The writer began to pick blossoms June 23d, and is still picking a few, October 24th. Day after day one walks through this bower of beauty, and when the names become familiar it is like being received at court. With the Pansy you must stoop and brush the dirt off its impish face, but every royal Sweet Pea stands in sweet grace to greet you.



Now do not say, a Sweet Pea is only a Sweet Pea. Both seed and blossoms are to be distinctly classified. Some great, lusty black seeds are quite ordinary, and some that you would be tempted to throw away have a blood that is as noble as their constitution is delicate. And then as to the form and size of blossoms, setting aside the distinction between the Eckford's and the other varieties, you have first about thirty varieties which retain the old form of the Sweet

Pea. In these, the Standard, or back petal, is somewhat pear-shaped. Here we have the bright rose-pink

Adonis; the new pink and white Blanche

Ferry; the old Black; the rich,

velvety, dark wine-colored Bore-

atton; the Blue and Purple;

the white, blue-edged, and suf-

fused crimson Captain Clarke; the

very intense Cardinal (Eckford);

the carmine Invincible; the soft

flesh-tinted Crown Princess of

Prussia; the crimson-winged

and scarlet standard Duchess

of Edinburgh, frequently with white marbled edges

(Eckford); the white, delicately suffused crimson De-

light (Eckford); the reliable Fairy Queen, almost pure

white, but known by its little carmine lines; the Isa

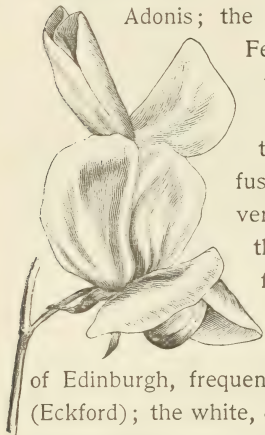
Eckford, nearly identical with the Crown Princess of

Prussia, but an Eckford; the wonderful Orange Prince,

Eckford's most distinct, original color, a decided orange

cast; the old Painted Lady; the Purple; the Purple

Brown, which comes in striped form; the Blue and



Purple Striped; the Primrose, Eckford's nearest approach to yellow, and worthy of the name; the Queen of the Isles, white striped on scarlet ground; the Queen, with pink standard and mauve wings (Eckford); Queen of England, a white Eckford; the Scarlet Invincible; the Scarlet Striped on white ground; the Vesuvius, with rose and violet shades, and spotted; the Violet Queen, a deeper violet cast than the Queen; the common White, and others.

Another class is represented chiefly by the finest Eckford's. It is an improvement in size, form, and substance, and has a



standard, full and wavy, expanded in the shape of a palm-leaf fan. Where the old form is reflexed, this is hooded. Here we have the Apple Blossom; Countess of Radnor, a beautiful light mauve; Captain of the Blues, the largest and finest blue; Dorothy Tennant, puce violet; Her Majesty, very large, rosy pink; Ignea, intense scarlet; Lemon Queen, almost pure white; Miss Hunt, Princess Beatrice, Mrs. Gladstone,

these three are gradations of pink, the last being the lightest; Mrs. Sankey, the finest white of all; Mrs. Eckford, delicate shaded primrose; Monarch and Purple Prince, dark shades; Princess of Wales, fine blue and white striped; Princess Victoria, which is the improved Duchess of Edinburgh; Splendor, rich rose color; Senator, dark striped; Waverly, rosy claret.

Between these two classes come the form of the Imperial Blue, Indigo King, and Butterfly, the latter being a blue and white shaded, or blue edged. The Standard of this class has a notched form.



To this list Mr. Eckford is annually making new additions; the most important of the past season is a very large pure white, of surpassing beauty, which he has named Blanche Burpee, and which was awarded a first-class certificate of merit by the Royal Horticultural Society. Mr. Eckford will not have sufficient seed to introduce this—which he pronounces decidedly the best of all whites, for a year or two.

TO A SWEET PEA.

CHAS. I. JUNKIN.

Sweet little flower, who cares to sing thy praise?
Who crowns thee with the gem of glowing words?
Thou'rt but a simple thing, of every day,
Familiar as the myriad-numbered birds.

Thou canst not match the lily's purity ;
The royal rose bedims thy utmost glow ;
And far Japan has sent her fairest queen
To bid thee bow thy head and bend it low.

Thou'rt built of common earth ; no royal blood
Flows richly through thy humble, peasant veins ;
Not thine the palace, better thou shouldst keep
Thy lowly place beside the village lanes.

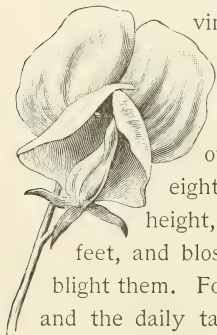
And yet, sweet heart, thou hast a fairer place
Than princely blood or grace could give to thee,
A quiet resting place in gentle hearts
That love thee for thy sweet simplicity.

Let high-born flowers contend to win the crown ;
Let nobles strive to seat them on the throne ;
Do thou, sweet flower, in quiet, fragrant peace,
Possess the loving hearts that are thine own.

SWEET PEAS FOR AMATEURS.

The Sweet Pea, that familiar and favorite old garden annual, is now rapidly winning a new and well-deserved popularity. Indeed, it is a revelation in flowers to see a successful hedge of them, with their present wonderful range of color and improved form.

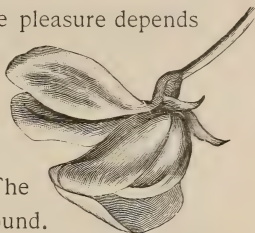
If one has not seen such a hedge, with thrifty vines and mass of fragrant bloom, be it understood that SUCCESS means a strongly bushed, double row, requiring at least an ounce of seed, coming into bloom about eighty days from planting, attaining a height, when in their prime, of five or six feet, and blossoming until the early fall rains blight them. For two months they revel in bloom, and the daily task of keeping them picked is a summer pleasure hardly equaled by any other



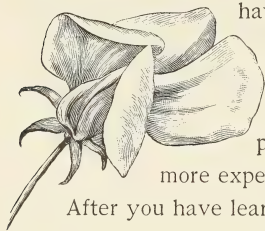
flower. Of course, much of the pleasure depends on the variety of bloom, and in this respect the Sweet Pea is now in the front rank.

You want a fine row next year? All right, begin at once. The first thing to think of is your ground.

Adopt the plan of getting your soil ready in the fall, so far as you can. A soil inclining to clay is the natural Sweet Pea soil; but a liberal manuring every fall will supply a body of vegetable matter which will be both nutriment and will hold moisture well. A large number of failures in Sweet Pea culture is due to the use of manure in the spring. All kinds of pea vines love a cool, moist soil, and they are very easily burnt by contact with any heating fertilizer. Many disappointed growers find their vines turning yellow and drying up before the summer drouth strikes them. The fault will be found not in the root, but the burnt stem above the root. Thoroughly rotted manure is good at any time, but even that had better be at the bottom of the trench. An old, deeply worked garden



soil will do well without extra manuring. Give your Sweet Peas a place in the vegetable garden, among your thriftiest stuff, and plant so that your row will



have both morning and afternoon sun and will run north and south. Now as to seed, a ten cent mixture will give great pleasure to the beginner, and the more expensive mixtures in proportion.

After you have learned to grow them you want at least a complete range of color, and if you can afford it you will have most desirable ones from the complete lists of sixty or more varieties.

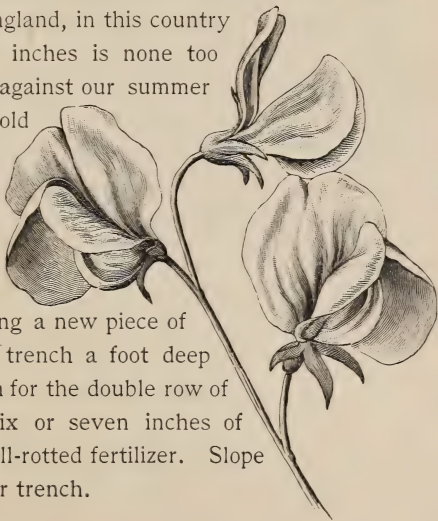
Of the Eckford's twenty-five out of the thirty are very desirable, and of the other sorts fifteen are quite distinct. Thirty cents an ounce for Gilt Edged Mixture is very reasonable, when you consider that Mr. Eckford charges for some varieties sixty cents for twelve seeds.

The following brief rules cover the essential points in growing and culture:—

1. Plant EARLY. When you hear the first blue-

bird it is time to think of your Sweet Peas. At the earliest moment the ground can be worked plant them without fear of frosts. Much depends on the latitude, but ask your early market gardener when he plants his extra early peas, and put your seed in the day he does.

2. Plant DEEP. While three inches is Mr. Eckford's rule in England, in this country a depth of five inches is none too much to secure against our summer droughts. In an old garden soil hoe out two furrows, ten inches apart and five inches deep. But if you are preparing a new piece of ground make a trench a foot deep and wide enough for the double row of seed. Fill in six or seven inches of good soil and well-rotted fertilizer. Slope the sides of your trench.



3. Drop the seed thinly in the double row, allowing for a percentage of failure. Two inches apart, and even three, is about right after they are up. Cover the seed at first ONLY ONE INCH DEEP. Fill in little by little as they grow, but do not cover the crowns. They transplant readily, if you wish to fill the empty spaces.

4. Special fertilizers. You can hardly put too much potash into Sweet Peas. It makes strong, woody vines and stems; use it in form of wood ashes. Bone flour has a good effect on the blossoms. The writer uses nitrate of soda to hasten results; its heating nature indicates that it should be used early, if at all, and used sparingly. Such stimulants are likely to be at the expense of late bloom.

5. Strong bushing. Do not follow these rules unless you give them a strong support six feet high. White birch tops, set in firmly with a crow-bar, are best. If you use a trellis make allowance for their branching habit. Let them enjoy some lateral spread. Any simple trellis that is strong and has its wires within easy reach of the tendrils will do. If you use

cheap wire netting get the very coarsest meshed, six feet wide, supported the whole length, so it will not sag, and by tacking on to the posts little cross-bars, run wires a few inches out from both sides to catch the spread of the vines. Don't cramp them.

6. You will double the number of blossoms by running the row in a sunny location, north and south. One side then has the morning sun, and the other the afternoon.

7. They love water by the pailful. Give them a treat every wash day of rich suds.

8. Cut the vines back to six feet and they send out new side branches.

9. PICK BLOSSOMS EVERY DAY without stint. If seed pods form, the strength of the vine is quickly exhausted. Enjoy the wealth of blossoms for three months, and buy fresh seed every year.

10. Mulch liberally. Mr. Eckford values this more than watering. Use anything like lawn rakings, or fine litter that is free from weed seeds.

11. Do not soak your seed before planting, except in the case of a very dry spring.

12. Do not throw away shriveled seed. Several varieties, some of them expensive, have only small, shrunk brown and drab seeds. Give them extra care, even germinate them in the house and transplant.

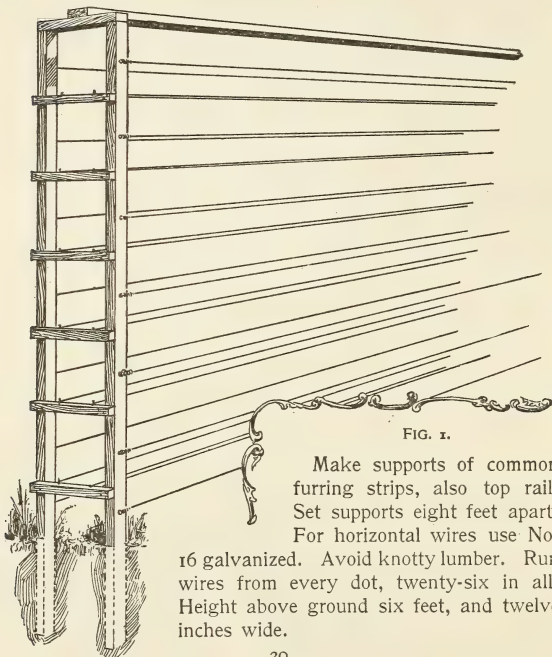


FIG. 1.

Make supports of common furring strips, also top rail. Set supports eight feet apart. For horizontal wires use No. 16 galvanized. Avoid knotty lumber. Run wires from every dot, twenty-six in all. Height above ground six feet, and twelve inches wide.

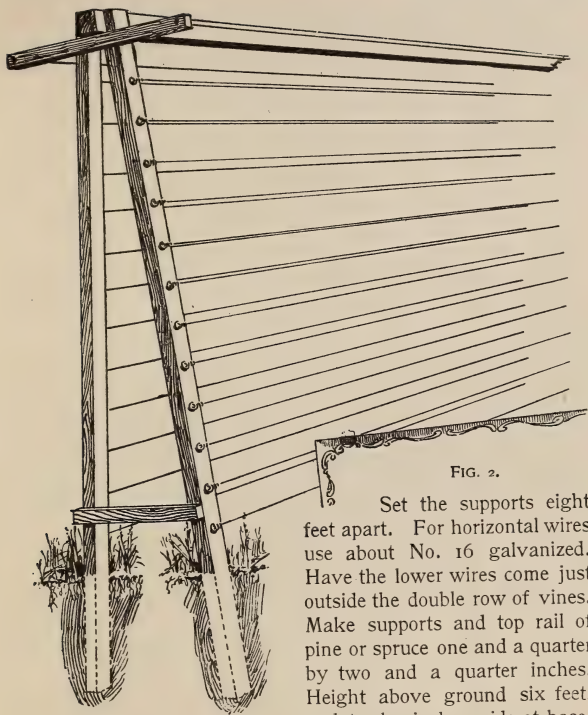


FIG. 2.

Set the supports eight feet apart. For horizontal wires use about No. 16 galvanized. Have the lower wires come just outside the double row of vines. Make supports and top rail of pine or spruce one and a quarter by two and a quarter inches. Height above ground six feet, and twelve inches wide at base.

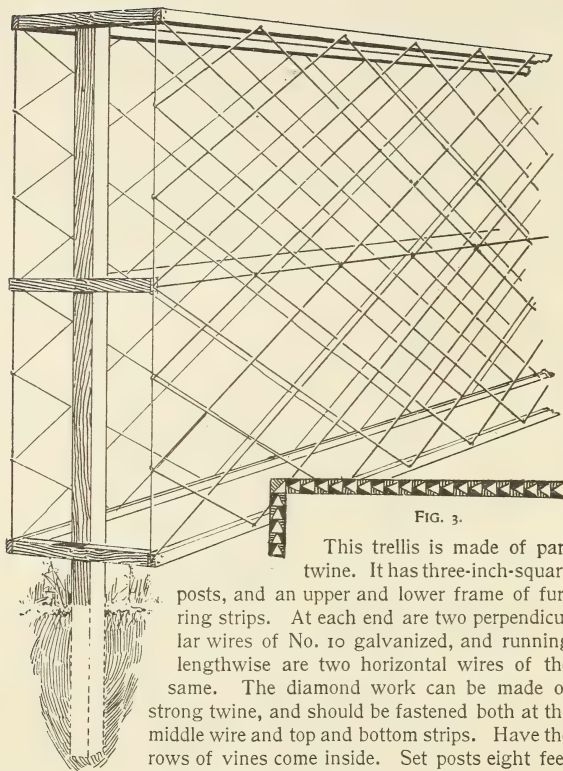


FIG. 3.

This trellis is made of part twine. It has three-inch-square posts, and an upper and lower frame of furring strips. At each end are two perpendicular wires of No. 10 galvanized, and running lengthwise are two horizontal wires of the same. The diamond work can be made of strong twine, and should be fastened both at the middle wire and top and bottom strips. Have the rows of vines come inside. Set posts eight feet apart. One foot is enough for width.

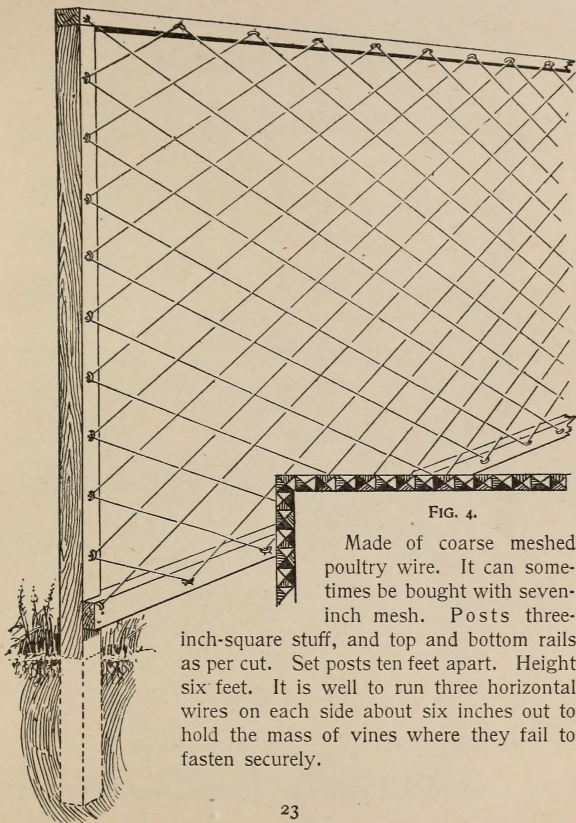


FIG. 4.

Made of coarse meshed poultry wire. It can sometimes be bought with seven-inch mesh. Posts three-inch-square stuff, and top and bottom rails as per cut. Set posts ten feet apart. Height six feet. It is well to run three horizontal wires on each side about six inches out to hold the mass of vines where they fail to fasten securely.

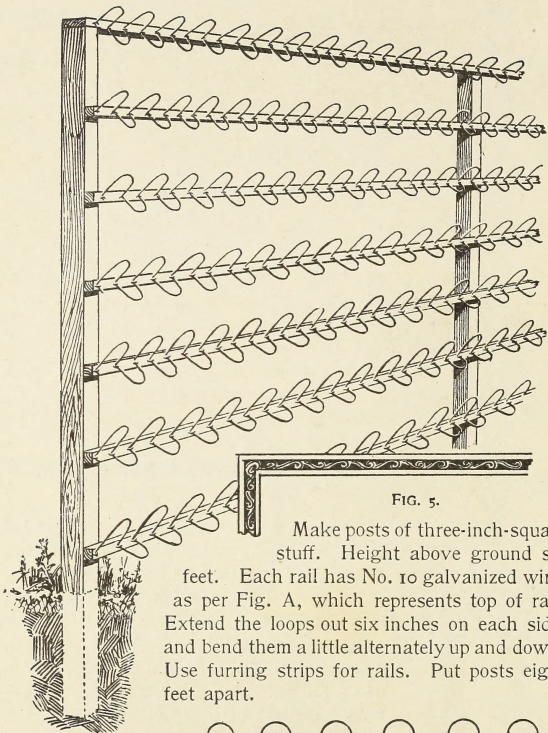


FIG. 5.

Make posts of three-inch-square stuff. Height above ground six feet. Each rail has No. 10 galvanized wire, as per Fig. A, which represents top of rail. Extend the loops out six inches on each side, and bend them a little alternately up and down. Use furring strips for rails. Put posts eight feet apart.

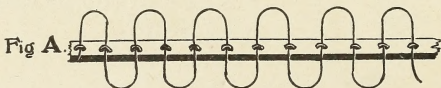


Fig A.



We're Sweet Peas and, if you please,
We are "all the go,"
But you will need the best of seed—
Burpee's seeds will grow.

BURPEE'S FARM ANNUAL for 1893 is better than ever before. A handsome book of 172 pages. It tells all about the best Seeds, Bulbs, and Plants, including Rare Novelties of real merit, which cannot be had elsewhere. Honest descriptions, hundreds of illustrations, with beautiful colored plates painted from nature. Mailed free to intending purchasers; to others on receipt of ten cents, which is less than actual cost per copy by the quarter-million edition.

Saucy Pansies though we be,
We would have you know
That we know a thing or two—
Burpee's seeds will grow.



